(iii) Work for the setting up of the National Institute of Intellectual Property Management at Nagpur has commenced.

(iv) E-filing of Patent applications has been made operational with effect from 20th July, 2007.

(v) Seminars/Conferences/Workshops at national and international level have been organized for creating awareness and promotion of Intellectual Property Rights.

(vi) Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between India and Australia, European Patent office, France, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States of America for cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights.

(vii) To further strengthen and upgrade the Intellectual Property Offices, the Government has launched a scheme in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for Modernisation and Strengthening of Intellectual Property Offices at an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crore.

(viii) The measures taken by the Government enabled the Indian Patent Office to be recognised as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty of World Intellectual Property Organisation and a possible accession to the Madrid Protocol for the international registration of Marks.

Scam in import of pulses

251. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scam amounting to crores in State Trading Corporation (STC) relating to import of pulses;

(b) whether matter is under investigation by CBI; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) CBI has registered an RC on 11.12.2007 against three managers of STC and two private parties in the matter of import of and sale of 30,000 MT black Mapte (Urad Whole) by STC during 2006-07 under the subsidy policy of Government of India.

(c) CBI report is awaited.

Financial concessions to export-oriented industrial units

†252. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise percentage of trade by export-oriented industrial units in the total import-export trade of the country during the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.